

Message Text

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14

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 XMB-07 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 SCEM-02 AEC-11

EB-11 AID-20 AECE-00 SS-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /148 W

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P 270714Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1770

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8681

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BMEP, KS

SUBJECT: THIRD AND FOURTH NUCLEAR PLANTS

REFS: (A) STATE 246396; (B) TOKYO 15850; (C) MEMCON ADLER/MIN,
DEC. 11; (D) MEMCON ADLER/TAE, DEC. 12; (E) MEMCON
AMBASSADOR/LEE, NOV. 21; (F) STATE 250190.

1. INFORMATION PARA (A) REFTEL CORRECT AS REPORTED IN REF (D).
WE INTEND RAISE MATTER AGAIN AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING RETURN OF ECONOMIC MINISTERS FROM TOKYO ECONOMIC INTER-
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT THE INTEREST OF ROKG IN ADOPTING NATURAL
URANIUM TECHNOLOGY FOR THIRD NUCLEAR PLANT MOTIVATED PRIMARILY
BY A DESIRE TO DIVERSIFY FUEL SOURCES AS A HEDGE AGAINST ANY
POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES IN THE FUTURE AVAILABILITY OF ENRICHED
URANIUM. THIS CONCERN STEMS FROM CONSIDERATIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE
REPORTED BY TOKYO IN REF (B). THE AVAILABILITY OF EXIM FINANCING
HAS NOT BEEN A CONSIDERATION TO DATE.

3. THE CANADIANS AIDED BY EISENBERG HAVE BEEN PROMOTING THE USE
OF NATURAL URANIUM REACTORS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. BOTH WE AND THE
REPRESENTATIVES OF WESTINGHOUSE AND GENERAL ELECTRIC HAVE BEEN
FOLLOWING THESE DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY IN OUR PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS
WITH ROKG OFFICIALS AND KECO PERSONNEL. UNTIL CONVERSATIONS
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REPORTED IN CWFS (C) AND (D) WE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE MATTER
WAS STILL UNDECIDED. IN FACT, DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF NOVEMBER,

GENERAL ELECTRIC REPRESENTATIVE REPORTED CONFIDENTIALLY THAT HE BELIEVED GENERAL ELECTRIC HAD GONE A LONG WAY TOWARD CLINCHING THE SALE OF ENRICHED URANIUM REACTORS FOR UNITS THREE AND FOUR.

4. EISENBERG DEALS ARE NOT LOOKED UPON WITH FAVOR IN SOME ROKG CIRCLES AND, AS INDICATED IN REF (D), UNLESS THE CANADIANS SUCCEEDED IN DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM EISENBERG, THEIR OFFER TO PROVIDE REACTORS MAY RUN INTO SERIOUS TROUBLE. WE ARE CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS TO TRY TO CONVINCE THE ROKG THAT KOREA'S INTEREST WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY STANDARDIZING ON ENRICHED URANIUM REACTORS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE BREEDER REACTOR OR OTHER NEW TECHNOLOGY IS FULLY DEVELOPED AND COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE. HAVE STRESSED THE CONSLY DISADVANTAGES IN MANPOWER AND MONEY OF MAKING A CHANGE FROM LIGHT WATER TO HEAVY WATER REACTORS AT THIS TIME.

5. ANY ADDITIONAL ARGUMENT THE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE WHICH CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT ENRICHED URANIUM IS A PREFERRED FUEL FROM ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND AVAILABILITY STANDPOINTS WOULD ALSO HELP.

6. WE WILL REPORT RESULTS OF OUR MEETING WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER.
UNDERHILL

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